

REMARKS

Upon entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 1-8, 18-25 and 29-31 will be pending in this application. Claims 1, 18 and 29 are independent. Applicant has canceled claims 9-24 and 26-28 without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. Applicant has amended the claims to conform to U.S. patent practice. Applicant has inserted an Abstract of the Disclosure. Applicant has not raised any issue of new matter.

Conclusion

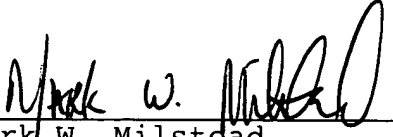
The specification is in the proper format. The present claims define patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application, she is invited to telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2334 for any additional

fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly,
extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosure: Abstract of the Disclosure